

Howard County Consumer Affairs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2015

Due to lack of quorum, there was no official action taken by the Board at this meeting

- Present: Sue Rogan, Felicia West and Jill Bussey
- Absent: Richard Green, Ashlyn Hood, Jerome Jackson and Katherine Bronstein

Administrator's Report

- Becky reviewed legislation (HB313 / SB298) currently pending before the General Assembly. These bills would require the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to promulgate rules governing the issuance of temporary registration plates to consumers who accept delivery of a motor vehicle before all agreements between the parties become final. OCA's testimony against these bills is attached.
- Sue noted that MD CASH is supporting legislation to close a hole in legislation passes previously to regulate tax preparers. The new legislation will give DLLR authority to prosecute unlicensed tax preparers as well as licensed tax preparers for violations of law.
- Becky distributed two new education pieces about Spring Home Repairs and Debt Collection Practices. Both of these pieces are available on OCA's website.
- Becky reported on recent outreach efforts with the Korean Society of Maryland and a church whose congregation is made up of immigrants from Burma.

Upcoming Events / Announcements

- Money Matters Fair - March 14 at Long Reach High School. The event is sponsored by Making Change and OCA is on the planning committee. OCA will help staff the Department of Citizen Services (DCS) table and is working with the Office on Aging on preparing a presentation on Caring for Aging Parents.
- Money Smart Week – April 18 to 25. Sue noted that the MD CASH information summit will be April 24 instead of April 18 as previously reported. The summit will be held at the Federal Reserve offices in Baltimore, and will provide hands-on assistance to anyone who is interested in providing financial education.
- Green Fest – April 18 at Howard Community College
- FIRN will be sponsoring a naturalization ceremony to be held in the Banneker Room of the George Howard building on April 18 from 10 to 12. Fifty people will be sworn in and a total attendance of around 300 is expected. OCA will have materials about the office in Spanish, Korean, Chin and Chinese available at the ceremony.
- Howard County Housing Fair – April 25 at Long Reach High School – OCA will participate in a landlord-tenant workshop and be available for one-on-one counseling.
- MD CASH will hold a press event on March 12 on immigration and taxes.

Other Business

- Becky reported that the Board has \$500 instead of the \$472 previously reported. The Board will discuss how it would like to spend its budget at the next Board meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD WILL BE ON MARCH 1 AT 7:00 P.M.
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
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COLUMBIA, MD 21046